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Russian Federation

Livestock and Products

Russia Lifts BSE Ban From Canada 2007

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Report Highlights:

Russia announced on March 29, 2007 that a four-year ban on Canadian meat products and livestock had been lifted after receiving assurances that Canada had taken sufficient measures to control BSE. The ban was introduced in May 2003 after an Alberta cow tested positive for the disease. Shipments of live cattle will be permitted from all Canadian provinces except British Columbia and Russian vet inspectors must be present during the selection and 21-day quarantine of cattle destined to Russia.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Moscow [RS1]
[RS]

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Executive Summary

The Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) announced on March 29, 2007 that Canada could once again resume the delivery of boneless beef, beef by-products and brood cattle after receiving sufficient assurances from the Canadian veterinary service that enough steps had been taken to control bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In addition, VPSS now considers Canadian ranchers to be in compliance with Russian veterinary requirements. Russia banned all Canadian live cattle and beef products in May 2003 after the discovery of BSE in an Alberta cow.

Shipments of cattle will be permitted from all Canadian provinces except British Columbia. The exported cattle must be born from healthy parents in Canada, raised on farms where no cases of BSE have been recorded and where no other species are raised, and where the Canadian agency for livestock identification has conducted an identification of all animals. In accordance with the agreement reached, the presence of a VPSS representative is mandatory during the selection and 21-day quarantine period of cattle destined for Russia.

Article From *Meatinfo.ru*

[Unofficial Embassy Translation]

Begin text:

March 29, 2007 "Canada Meets Russian Requirements Regarding Deliveries of Meat." – by Gordeyev

Deliveries of cattle, beef and beef by-products from Canada were banned in the spring of 2003 because of the detection of BSE (so called "mad cow disease"). The ban on brood cattle imports from Canada was lifted in January of this year.

Russian Minister of Agriculture Aleksey Gordeyev announced that during recent meetings held in Canada led by Yevgeniy Nepoklonov, Deputy Head of the Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS), new certificates were approved for the delivery of live cattle and live pigs to the Russian Federation, as well as for boneless beef and beef by-products.

According to the announcement from the Ministry of Agriculture, these decisions are fully compliant with OIE norms. The Russian side declares that it will also comply with them in the future.

Mr. Gordeyev stated that, unlike the representatives of some other countries, Canadian specialists understood the requirements of the Russian veterinary service. "In such complicated questions, a positive approach, an understanding of a country's traditions and problems, and a mutual desire to solve them are very important points." He reported that just such an approach was used at the meetings in Ottawa.

VPSS notes that Canada endorsed several additional conditions that guarantee the safety of meat and livestock deliveries. "In addition, we recently received a proposal from the Canadian veterinary service that provides instructions for breeders on how to prepare cattle for Russia," reported an informed representative of VPSS. "While we did not request such a document we greatly appreciate the efforts of our Canadian colleagues to address all concerns to resume trade."

Russian specialists have planned a trip to Canada in mid-April to inspect meat facilities. It is expected that the trip will result in a list of establishments approved for export to Russia.

"Taking into account the epizootic situation and achievements of the Canadian veterinary service regarding BSE control as well as the fact that conditions at the cattle farms of brood cattle to Russia are, in general, in compliance with the Russian veterinary requirements, a decision was made to resume exports of cattle from Canada to Russia. Shipments of cattle will be permitted from all Canadian provinces excluding British Columbia. The exported cattle should be born from healthy parents in Canada, raised on farms where no BSE cases have been recorded and where no other species are raised, and where the Canadian agency for livestock identification has conducted an identification of all animals. In accordance with the agreement reached, the presence of a VPSS official is mandatory during the selection and quarantine period of cattle destined for the Russian Federation."

End Text.

Canada Prepares to Ship 2,000 Head Cattle to Russia

According to recent press reports, for the first time since an initial outbreak of BSE in Canada four years ago, a deal is in the works that would ship Canadian live brood cattle to Russia. Alberta Exports International spokesman Gary Smith said in a recent press conference that they inked a multi-million dollar deal that will see 2,000 head of Canadian beef and dairy cattle shipped to the Russian Federation. The cattle will be shipped to Russia in mid-May 2007.